

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02

SAJ-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 CU-02 /068 W

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R 301452Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7045

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 1165: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJECT: MFA'S REPLY ON GREGORY INCIDENT

REF: MOSCOW 7512

1. MFA HAS SENT US A RESPONSE TO OUR NOTE OF MAY 14 REGARD-
ING THE DETENTION AND ATTEMPTED RECRUITMENT OF IREX STUDENT
SERGE GREGORY IN LENINGRAD. THE MFA'S NOTE DENIES ANY
WRONGDOING ON THE SOVIET SIDE. THE TEXT OF THE NOTE IS GIVEN
BELOW; COPIES OF THE ORIGINAL ARE BEING POUCHED TO EUR/SOV
AND LENINGRAD.

2. BEGIN TEXT. NO. 41/OSSHA.

THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE UNION OF SOVIET
SOCIALIST REPUBLICS REFERS TO THE NOTE OF THE EMBASSY OF
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA NO. 566 DATED 14 MAY 1976
AND CONSIDERS IT NECESSARY TO STATE THE FOLLOWING:
AN ADDITIONAL REVIEW HAS FULLY CONFIRMED THE FACTS CON-
TAINED IN THE NOTES OF THE DIPLOMATIC AGENCY TO THE
U.S. CONSULATE GENERAL IN LENINGRAD OF 4 AND 18 MAY
1976 REGARDING VIOLATIONS OF EXISTING REGULATIONS FOR TRAVEL
BY FOREIGNERS ON SOVIET TERRITORY ON THE PART OF AMERI-
CAN CITIZEN SERGE GREGORY, AND HIS FLAGRANT VIOLATION
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OF SOCIAL ORDER. THE REVIEW ALSO CONFIMED THAT

GREGORY WAS RELEASED FROM A SOBERING-UP STATION IN THE CITY OF GATCHINA--WHERE HE WAS BROUGHT IN A HIGHLY INTOXICATED STATE--AFTER HIS IDENTITY WAS ESTABLISHED AND HE WAS GIVEN NECESSARY MEDICAL ASSISTANCE. AT THAT TIME, GREGORY HIMSELF DID NOT REQUEST TO CONTACT THE U.S. CONSULATE GENERAL AND EXPRESSED NO COMPLAINTS TO THE WORKERS OF THE SOBERING-UP STATION.

AT THE SAME TIME, THERE IS NOTHING TO CONFIRM ALLEGATIONS BY GREGORY, CONTAINED IN THE EMBASSY'S NOTE, THAT SOME SORT OF UNIDENTIFIED PERSON HAD A CONVERSATION WITH HIM ON 29 APRIL 1976. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THIS ALLEGATION WAS INVENTED BY GREGORY HIMSELF, FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISTRACTING ATTENTION FROM HIS TRANSGRESSIONS.

THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS REJECTS AS UNFOUNDED THE PROTEST BY THE EMBASSY CONCERNING AN ALLEGED VIOLATION OF THE CONSULAR CONVENTION IN THE PRESENT INSTANCE AND SOME SORT OF PROVOCATION AGAINST GREGORY. AT THE SAME TIME, THE EMBASSY'S ATTENTION IS CALLED TO THE NEED FOR STRICT COMPLIANCE BY AMERICAN CITIZENS WITH REGULATIONS CONCERNING TRAVEL BY FOREIGNERS ON THE TERRITORY OF THE USSR AND WITH ACCEPTED NORMS OF BEHAVIOR. END TEXT.
MATLOCK

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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